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DIARY NOTES

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15 February 1961

1. At the Deputies' Meeting this morning:

a. The Director discussed again the Weekly Report to the President and requested that we add a note concerning our new Regulations on "Separation of Personnel" and "Separation Compensation." This, I have done. H

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b. The Director announced that [REDACTED] was going to be assigned to the immediate office of the Secretary of Defense and said he hoped that he could persuade the Secretary of Defense to let Ed be our point of contact rather than the [REDACTED] office. (There seems to be some speculation, at least in CIA circles, that the [REDACTED] office may disappear. I gather that with Prouty and Spore there dragging their feet this would not make anybody in CIA unhappy.)

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e. The Director brought up the subject of an article in the overseas edition of the New York Times of last Sunday by Harry Schwartz in which there has apparently been some leak. He said that he was going to ask Shef Edwards to investigate this. (I have alerted Shef to this possibility.) H

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2. I conducted my weekly Staff Meeting, the minutes of which are being written separately.

3. I had lunch with Emmett Echols who discussed with me a variety of problems:

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a. Apparently Colonel [REDACTED] although we agreed to keep him on duty for another year, has to retire by law in November. [REDACTED] wants us to ask for his immediate recall to active duty for some period of time which would enable him to complete twenty-six years of service and put him in a higher pay bracket. I told Emmett to look at this very carefully and see what the precedents were but that the strongest letter we could possibly write could only say that it would be convenient for us if the Army decided to recall him to active duty. Certainly we cannot take the position that there are not many other colonels in the Army who could fill his position without any difficulty, and we have from now until November to get them ready.

b. Emmett reports that "yesterday's" insurance claims are being handled "today" and that the old backlog which was several hundred cases and thirty days or more old has been almost completely eliminated.

c. I asked Emmett what he thought about raising the limitation on the Credit Union from \$50.00 in order to encourage people overseas to save more money and thereby curtail the outflow of dollars. He said he believed that this was a good suggestion and that we might combine it with a drive to encourage people to buy more bonds. (I want to follow up on this later.)

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4. [REDACTED] were up to brief me on their emergency plan in case we should have a flood. It will be necessary to activate a signal center here in the basement of the East Building, and the American Telephone & Telegraph Company will require about one week's notice in order to make these arrangements. We will have to lease a circuit for, say, thirty days at a cost of something like \$1,000. I told [REDACTED] to go ahead and place this order tomorrow since it would be too late to have the circuit in prior to the disaster if it actually occurs. The second part of their plan envisages the activation of the [REDACTED], and the third the actual move to the Center and the other areas which may be available. I asked them to brief [REDACTED] on this part of their plan, which [REDACTED] assured me he would do.

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5. In connection with the above item, [REDACTED] reports at about 5:30 p.m. that there is no change in the threat of flood and that apparently none is expected within the next couple of days. He will be ready by tomorrow afternoon to discuss our situation and plan with me.

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